

Testimony of Ronny Jackson:

Chairman Hunter, distinguished members of the committee. My name is Ronny Jackson and I proudly represent Texas's 13th congressional district. The work that you and your committee are doing is vitally important to the State of Texas and will impact the lives of all Texans – and Americans - for the next decade and years to come. Texas has been blessed with remarkable growth over the last decade and by all accounts will be blessed with additional representation in congress after the latest round of re-apportionment.

I am here today to emphasize how important it is for the people of the Texas panhandle and North and West Texas to have and keep a unified congressional district in the upcoming round of reapportionment. The 13th congressional district currently has 41 counties and serves a wide variety of communities from Amarillo to Wichita Falls. The 13th congressional district has robust rural and energy sectors that work hand in glove with the commercial centers of the district. In other words, though Texas 13 is a geographically large district – in fact it has a larger land mass than 13 states - its constituents are unified economically, culturally and socially. Keeping this district largely intact is a smart move for Texas and the nation because it represents our Texas values and is a microcosm of America's diverse economic interests.

A great example of this is our national defense industry. Not only is the 13th congressional district home to Bell Helicopter in the panhandle, but it is also home to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls. Although far away from one another geographically the interests of this great company and this vital Air Force Base are perfectly aligned and perfectly aligned with the interests of the great state of Texas. Additionally, when I joined Congress I was honored to be selected to serve on the Armed Services Committee and, importantly, the sub-committee for Tactical Air and Ground. Why is this important? Because it represents the interests of both Bell Helicopter and Sheppard AFB. It also reinforces the importance of keeping these two important parts of our state and our nation's security interests together in the same congressional district.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve the people of Texas's 13th congressional district in congress. I am obviously partial to keeping it intact, both for the reasons stated earlier and many others that I hope to share with you in the coming months. I know this will be a long and deliberative process, and I know that you are all up to the challenge. I just want to wish you luck and offer any help in the work ahead.